

HOW TO AVOID BEE STINGS

Were it not for the fear of BEE Stings, which is universal, HONEY BEES would be much more popular.

The bee sting is always felt no matter how many years the beekeeper spends working with bees, but swelling and irritation become less and less as time goes on. The Beekeeper actually acquires a certain degree of immunity.

First, to avoid being stung, a good Bee Veil over a helmet and fitting snugly around the collar and shoulders, should always be worn.

Secondly, coveralls are very necessary. Avoid wearing dark coloured or woollen clothing. To prevent bees from crawling up the legs inside your trousers, pant legs should be tucked inside your socks, but better still, wear high top boots and secure pant legs to them with elastic bands.

Thirdly, a good pair of well fitting gauntlet gloves is advisable.

The bee, in an attempt to sting, and this she will only do when disturbed or frightened, takes a firm hold with her claws. The Beekeeper, on feeling this, is able often to brush off or kill the bee before the sting penetrates the skin. Should the bee manage to insert her "stinger" it should be removed as quickly as possible by scraping off with the hive tool or thumb nail. One should not attempt to pick off the 'stinger' with the fingers, as this will only tend to squeeze the poison sac and cause the poison to be inserted into the wound.

The temper of the Honey Bee varies with weather conditions, the time of day and season of the year, and also, the manner in which the operator goes about his tasks and by honey flow conditions. An exceptionally cross colony should be re-queened. Bearing in mind the foregoing observations, the fear of bees will gradually disappear